

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Venezuela

DATE DISTR. 21 October 1949

SUBJECT Increased Political Tension in Venezuela

NO. OF PAGES 1

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ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The arrest and confinement in the El Dorado Penal Colony of 23 minor political figures by the Venezuelan government on [REDACTED] caused generally unfavorable reaction in both high and low circles of society and caused mixed reaction within the Venezuelan Army. One of the reasons for this unfavorable reaction was that the El Dorado Penal Colony had previously been used for the confinement of habitual criminals rather than of political prisoners. The persons arrested could be classified as liberal to Communist in ideology. All available copies of the Communist-line weekly Morrocay Azul were confiscated when the paper published a protest on [REDACTED], signed by a large number of doctors, lawyers, teachers and newspapermen, against the government's action. Inasmuch as this action occurred immediately prior to [REDACTED], the fourth anniversary of the revolution which placed the Accion Democratica in power, the feeling of political uncertainty in Venezuela has increased.

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2. The Venezuelan government had planned on exiling an additional group of persons to Mexico on [REDACTED]. However, the wives and relatives of these persons protested so strongly to the Minister of Interior that the group has not yet been deported. Police at the Minister's office who refused to execute orders were reportedly arrested.

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3. In addition to the above mentioned group, a small group of Venezuelan Army officials are reported to have been arrested in Caracas and certain other unidentified cities in the central part of the country.

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4. On [REDACTED] the police and Venezuelan Army took special precautions against the occurrence of any incidents. Nothing occurred at this time however; with the exception of the dispersal of a small student group which was meeting in the Central University.

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5. According to [REDACTED] the Minister of Health submitted his resignation on [REDACTED].

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